UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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DATES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED FOR EARLY TEAL HUNTING SEASON IN TWO WATERFOWL FLYWAYS; TWENTY STATES AFFECTED

Dates and other special regulations for an experimental early teal hunting season in the Mississippi and Central Flyways were announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The nine-day season is expected to provide information for future management of the small and speedy blue-winged teal, a duck that normally migrates before the regular waterfowl hunting season. Participants in the early season will cooperate with State and Federal agencies in gathering required information.

The open-season dates and the States involved are: September 4-12 in Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and those portions of Colorado and Wyoming east of the Continental Divide; September 10-18 in Indiana; September 11-19 in Iowa, Kansas, and Minnesota; September 16-24 in Michigan; September 17-25 in Ohio; September 18-26 in Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and that portion of New Mexico east of the Continental Divide; and September 22-30 in Oklahoma.

Daily shooting hours for the teal season will be from sunrise to sunset. The daily bag limit will be four and the possession limit, eight. These limits can include blue-winged, green-winged, and cinnamon teal. All three birds are similar in size and there is a superficial resemblance, particularly among the hens. To prevent identification problems, all three species will be legal game during the special season, but the green-wing usually migrates later and the cinnamon teal is a western bird, rarely found east of the Rockies.

A 1965 Special Teal Hunting Permit, provided by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and issued free on proper application to State game and fish departments, will be required by all hunters participating in the special season. Teal hunters also must have a valid State hunting license and, if 16 or older, a 1965 Duck Stamp.

Duplicate copies of the free permit will be sent the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to tally the number of hunters interested in the early season and also to provide addresses for conducting a duck wing survey and a hunter questionnaire survey. The age, sex, and species of ducks killed during the special season will be determined from wings collected by hunters and the questionnaires will indicate hunter interest, participation, and success.

One of the important questions to be answered by the research project is how well Mississippi and Central Flyway duck hunters distinguish between teal and other ducks. To assist hunters with waterfowl identification, a waterfowl identification guide, "Ducks at a Distance," is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 25 cents per copy.

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